

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-46 are now pending in this application, with claims 1, 14, 15, 23, 34 and 46 being independent. Group I (claims 1-14 and 23-46) have been provisionally elected, and claims 15-22 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

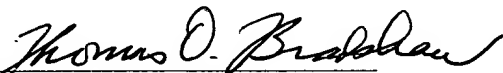
CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Thomas D. Bradshaw

Registration No.: 51,492
COVINGTON & BURLING
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2401
(202) 662-6000
Attorney for Applicant